



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

Victor Holanda, Director

*Promoting the Wise Use of Land.
Helping to Build Great Communities.*

PRESS RELEASE

Date: August 15, 2006

RE: NEW WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE NIPOMO AREA

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building announced today that new water conservation requirements for new residential development in the Nipomo area identified in the map below, will take effect immediately. The County Board of Supervisors adopted the ordinance in May 2006 addressing water conservation need in Nipomo that followed up on the Nipomo Community Services District's Sphere of Influence update in 2004. Water usage in the Nipomo Mesa area has increased significantly in recent years due to increased development and agricultural use. The new water conservation requirements are attempts to reduce water consumption on the Nipomo Mesa.

- One of the new measures requires that all sink faucets in bathrooms and kitchens in new residences be equipped with automatic shut off devices. This also applies when a bathroom is added, or when the floor area is increased by twenty percent (20%). Automatic shut off faucets operate by means of a hands-free electric sensor. The unit is activated when hands are placed close to the sensor and turns off when hands passed by again, or after a set amount of time. These automatic shut off faucets have been proven to save more water than a conventional unit.

The Department's Building Division will immediately begin checking for these faucets in all building plans for construction in the area. The requirement will be placed on all building permit applications for new residential development that have not yet been issued.

- Another water conserving measure is the requirement for drip-line irrigation for all landscaped areas (except turf areas) installed for new construction. The drip irrigation system must include an automatic rain shut-off device, soil moisture sensors, a separate meter for outdoor water and an operating manual to instruct the building occupant on how to use and maintain the water conservation hardware.
- In addition, the maximum amount of turf (lawn) area may not exceed twenty percent of the site's total irrigated landscape area, and, in all cases the site's total irrigated landscape area shall be limited to 1,500 square feet.

For further information, please contact Doug Morris, Assistant Building Official – Plans Review Section at (805)781-5625.

Cheryl Journey
Chief Building Official

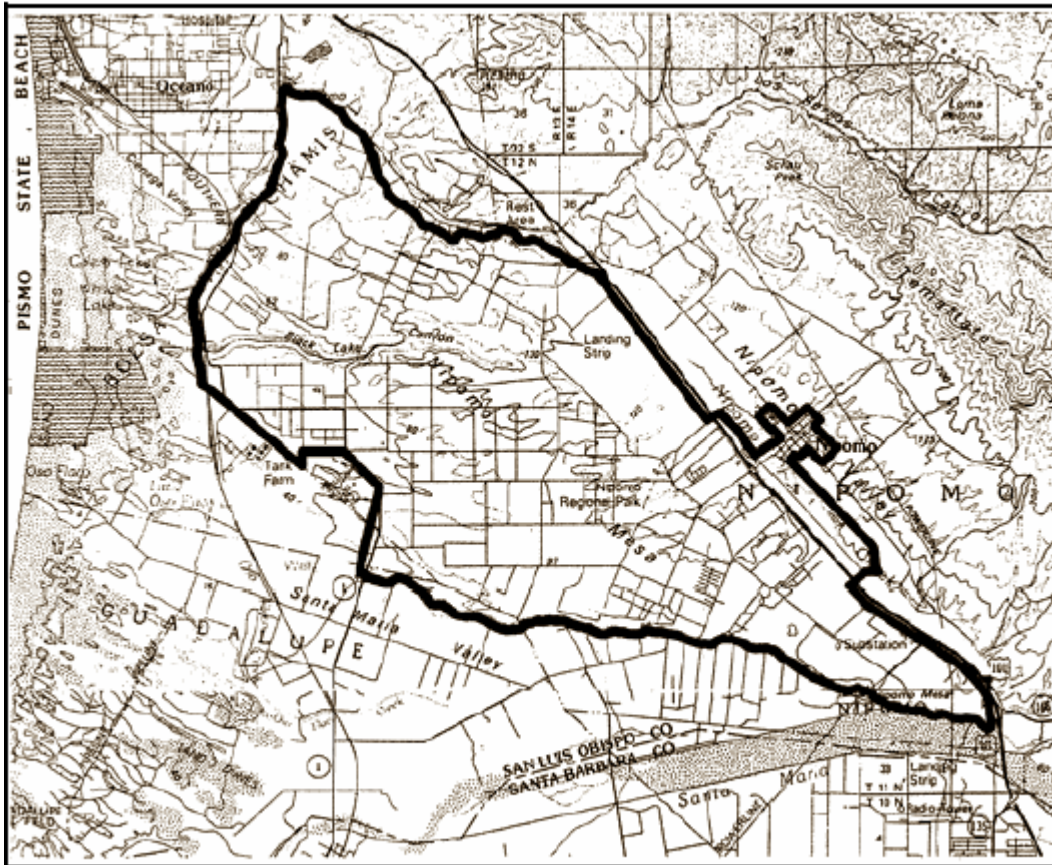


Figure 112-4 - Taken from San Luis Obispo County Code - Title 22, Land Use Ordinance